Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EUR-12 /083 W
----------111146Z 122980 /10
R 111033Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8778
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IS
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAELI PRISONS

REF: TEL AVIV 1746

1. EMBASSY IS CORRECT (PARA 6 REFTEL) THAT MARCH 9 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BETWEEN ALLON AND MK ARABELI ON ALLEGED PROMISE OF CONSUL GENERAL TO "INTERVENE" ON BEHALF OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN ISRAELI PRISONS AND TO "ACT IN UNISION WITH JERUSALE CONSULAR CORPS" CONTAINS SEVERAL INACCURACIES.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, CONSUL GENERAL AGEED TO RECEIVED DELEGATION AT REQUEST OF LEADING EAST JERUSALEM NOTABLE AND ON UNDERSTANDING MEETING WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED. NO RPT NO PROMISE WAS MADE TO INTERVENE OR TO SEEK TO MOBILIZE CONSULAR CORPS. NEVERTHELESS, ARABIC PRESS CARRIED
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INCORRECT ACCOUNTS OF MEETING WHICH WERE ESSENTIALLY REPREINTED IN HEBREW PAPER AL HAMISHMAR. THE LATTER, THIRD HAND ACCOUNT, APPARENTLY FORMED BASIS BOTH FOR REPORTED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

3. STORY HAS CAUSED CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SPECULATION HERE AMONG CONSULAR CORPS AND JOURNALISTS. SEASONED

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ISRAELI SOURCES SPECULATE THAT EXCHANGE WAS
ORCHESTRATED BY ALLON AS PART OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN
TO SHOW VIGILANCE AND FIRMNESS OF FOREIGN MINSTER.
ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT GOI INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE
OVER ATTENTION BEING PAID TO PALESTINIAN PRISONERS
IN ISRAELI PRISONS AND WISHED TO WARN FOREIGN CONSULS
AND OTHER MISSIONS NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH
PRISONERS' COMPLAINTS (U.K. AND FRENCH CONSULS GENERAL
ASLO RECEIVED DELEGATION OF PRISONERS' RELATIVES
BUT NO PUBLICITY RESULTED).

4. GIVEN FACTUAL INACCURIES, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT
AND EMBASSY CONSIDER HAVING EMBASSY OFFICER TELEPHONE
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION AT MFA TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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